

Message Text

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ORIGIN DOE-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 OES-07 EB-08 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00
H-01 INT-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 STR-07 TRSE-00
XMB-02 /140 R

DRAFTED BY USDOE:IA:AKOTB:MEM
APPROVED BY OES/NET:MPROCHNIK
USDOE:IA - RROBERTSON
EUR/RPE - KSTOCKER
EB/ORF/FSE - REHECKLINGER
-----026381 242153Z /70
P 242114Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH

SUBJ: BILATERAL GROUP ITALY/U.S. MEETING ON COAL
TECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 12924

1) DOE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL TECHNOLOGY MET WITH
ITALIAN DELEGATION MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1978, IN
WASHINGTON, D.C., TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE R&D COOPERATION
IN AREAS OF COAL GASIFICATION, COAL LIQUEFACTION, AND
COAL UTILIZATION.

2) DOE EXPERTS GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF MAJOR U.S. R&D COAL
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PROGRAM AND ANSWERED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS CONCERNING
POTENTIAL USE AND/OR CONVERSION OF ITALIAN COAL
DEPOSITS IN SARDINIA.

3) AS ITALIAN DELEGATION WAS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE
PRESENTATION ON ITS COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM, IT WAS
DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY AT THIS MEETING R&D COOPERATION

USEFUL TO BOTH PARTIES.

4) ITALIAN DELEGATION WAS GIVEN TECHNICAL MATERIAL ON DOE FOSSIL ENERGY PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN (1) SEVERAL U.S. COAL GASIFICATION AND COAL LIQUEFACTION PROCESSES, (2) VISITING THE TOKOMA PILOT PLANT AND THE RIVESVILLE FLUIDIZED BED COMBUSTION PROJECT AT A FUTURE DATE.

5) PENDING ACTION: MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT ITALIAN DELEGATION WILL REVIEW DOE'S COAL PROGRAM AND RESPOND IN NEAR FUTURE WITH MORE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AND/OR AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST FOR POSSIBLE R&D COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND ITALY ALONG WITH THOROUGH DESCRIPTION OF ITALIAN PROGRAM.

6) OVERALL, MEETING WAS DISAPPOINTING IN THAT IT WAS BASICALLY ONE SIDED. BASED ON INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON ITALIAN PROGRAM, IT IS NOT EVIDENT THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT ITALIAN WORK OF INTEREST TO USG TO WARRANT A BILATERAL ACTIVITY ON GROUNDS OF TECHNICAL BENEFIT ALONE.

7) COMMENT: WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE ITALIAN DELEGATION CAME TO THIS MEETING WITH SO LITTLE INFORMATION ON ITALIAN COAL PROGRAMS. DOE STRESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE NEED FOR SUCH INFORMATION AT THE DECEMBER 1977 MEETING OF THE ENERGY WORKING GROUP AND IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. BASED ON DOE TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY ROME, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN EMBASSY OFFICER ALSO MADE THIS POINT TO THE ITALIANS. THERE OBVIOUSLY WAS A COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM, BUT WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER IT WAS BETWEEN THE ITALIANS AND US, OR AMONG THE ITALIANS THEMSELVES. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO EMPHASIZE TO THE ITALIANS THE NEED FOR EARLY SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON COAL PROGRAMS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COAL, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE048559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IA:AKOTB:MEM
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0894
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780214/aaaaalvt.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6b3b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN DOE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 12924
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3481227
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BILATERAL GROUP ITALY/U.S. MEETING ON COAL TECHNOLOGY
TAGS: TECH, US, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6b3b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014